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THE MUSKET

LEXINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

December 2005 Volume 6; Issue 4

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LABBB Workers Picket for Improved Contracts

By Ben Carter

Having gone over for a year without contracts, LABBB employees are looking to strike up a new deal with the school system. As a December 5 contract mediation session took place at LHS, union members picketed for new contracts in the center.

Until last year, LABBB workers had been employed under a contract identical to that of classroom teachers. However, the 2004-2005 budget crisis forced the school system to pursue new terms with LABBB employees.

"Our salaries have been frozen," said one union representative from the Lexington Collaborative Education Association (LCEA). "We don't have the same contract as teachers, and our jobs are often harder [than teachers']."

Along with allowing salary raises, a new contract would provide a more conclusive medical plan and improved job security.

"We have students from eighty-five communities," said another representative. "LABBB is the best program of its kind in the country."

Some fifty LCEA members congregated at LHS and marched for two hours on a route that took them to Cary Memorial Hall and back. The picketers, many accompanied by their children, chanted for immediate resolution and waved signs that read "Just and Fair Contracts."

"We don't want to regress," one representative elaborated. "All we're asking for is what we had."

LCEA members march and picket for a return to their previous contract deal.

Jewish Student Union Gets Attention

By Ben Carter

On November 15, the Lexington High School chapter of the Jewish Student Union (JSU) found itself on the front page of the Boston Globe. The article, written by Boston Globe news correspondant James Vaznis, describes Boston-area JSUs and similar groups as part of the growing presence of religious organizations in public schools

The JSU was originally established by the National Conference of Synagogue Youth as a lunch-time club program for public high school students in Los Angeles, California. Two years after its 2003 conception, the JSU now boasts some 125 high school chapters with 2,500 – 3,000 active student members nationwide. The organization continues to expand rapidly with no sign of waning – Massachusetts JSUs will soon number six including the anticipated additions of chapters in Natick High School and Concord Academy to already established chapters in Lexington, Newton South, Framingham, and Brookline high schools.

Response to the November 15 article was largely positive among JSU members. Yisrael Schwartz, the 26-year-old JSU director at LHS, said the piece was a "good thing" and brought the organization much-needed public recognition. Junior Abby Chernick, a club leader and co-founder, praised the article for getting "Yisrael and [regional director] Shmuel Miller recognized for the work they've been doing."

However, the JSU membership body was not without its criticisms. Several students felt the article's author was venturing to stir up controversy through interviews with religious neutrality spokespeople and references to separation of church and state.

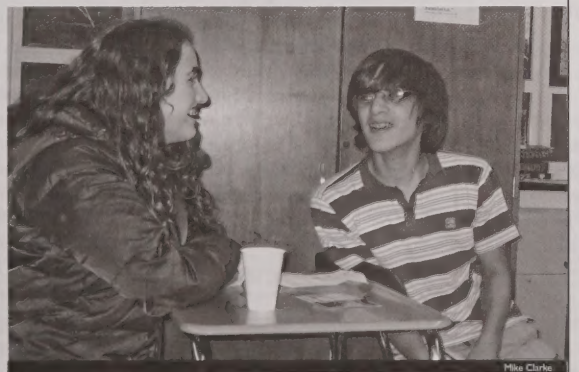
When asked about the role of religious clubs in school, Schwartz cited the JSU website, making reference to a 2001 US Supreme Court ruling that permits religious organization to convene after school hours. Nonetheless, many opponents of the ruling stress its unclear implications, as detailed in the Boston Globe article: "The Supreme Court ruling didn't set restrictions on how the religious clubs should operate… schools and legal groups have been struggling to figure out how the ruling fits in with an existing federal law that governs equal access to school buildings by outside groups."

Chernick, however believes the group's status within the school is legitimate. "[The JSU] would only be an issue if it were exclusively Jewish," said Chernick, who stresses that JSU's secular exploration of Judaic culture puts it on equal footing with the Asian Cultural Club.

At JSU meetings, students discuss current issues ranging from the state of affairs in Israel to "the true meaning of Thanksgiving." At the December 5 JSU meeting, Schwartz showed up with four boxes of pizza and a video montage depicting violence in the media. Debate was not centered around religion, but instead around parenting issues and Columbine. Not one religious allusion or reference was made in the meeting's one-hour entirety, although Schwartz admits this is unusual.

Through their activities, the JSU attempts to appeal largely to secular students and non-affiliated Jews. The organization employs a roster of guest speakers that includes former Patriot pro-bowler Andre Tippet and military intelligence officer Major Phil Peck.

The Jewish Student Union is not the only religious organization at LHS. Matzah also caters to the school's Jewish body, providing a less formal, more Israel-oriented forum for those interested. And the Mustard Seeds, a Christian organization, held a school-wide prayer for the new school year this past September.



Freshmen Mariah Slone and Stephen Fuchs snack and participate at a JSU meeting.

Science Department Receives New Seismograph Grant

By Micheline Soley

Thanks to the efforts of Dr. Sarah P. Damassa and a grant from the Lexington Educational Foundation (LEF), Lexington High School will be receiving a seismograph and resident seismologist to help out in freshman Earth Science classes this year.

A year ago, the Westin Observatory at Boston College invited the LHS Science Department to join a regional seismology program. This program provides participating schools with a seismologist upon the school's purchase of a seismograph, a machine that measures seismic waves occurring within the earth's crust.

In order to obtain the money needed, Damassa applied for a grant from LEF, a parent and community-funded foundation that allows teachers to request money for various projects. One academic year after Damassa's LEF request, the grant was approved.

The seismograph, slated for arrival in January, will reside in front of the science offices for all to see. The instrument will not only record seismic activity in Lexington, but also distant activity as well.

Upon the arrival of the seismograph, a seismologist from the Westin Observatory will work at LHS for seven hours a week through May. The seismologist will work outside of class time with all six earth science teachers, and will spend in-class time with students. The aim of this program is to aid students in their understanding and analysis of seismology and earthquake data.

Despite growing up in California, Damassa admits that she has never experienced an earthquake. Damassa says that although it would be exciting for students to see and study an earthquake here in Lexington, the dangerous nature of such a prospect is "unnerving." Recent earthquake horrors in Indonesia and Pakistan have clearly demonstrated the destruction and human toll associated with such powerful natural disasters.

For now, there is only optimism to be found within in the Science Department. As Damassa said, "We're psyched."

Inside this Issue:

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FEATURES

Model UN Art Auction Supports a Village in Ghana

By Alexandra Dimodica

At times the chaos of the holiday season makes us forget about the people who live thousands of miles away in. Fortunately, there are groups to remind us of such causes, and one of these groups exists in our own school. This year Model United Nations, a club formerly devoted to raising funds for Doctors Without Borders, has found a more personal cause to support this holiday season. The club will be raising money for Matse Nkwasi, an impoverished village in Ghana.

Art teacher Annie Zeybekoglu is the advisor for LHS's Model U.N. She is coordinating the art auction on Dec. 2.

Among more universal needs such as education and medical supplies, a primary problem in this village is the lack of a clean water source. Donations and support can make a visible difference in the community's access to clean water. As art teacher Annie Zeybekoglu, the club's advisor, remarked, providing fresh water comes first. Currently, these villagers are drinking water from a contaminated stream, thus increasing infection and disease.

Clean water, an amenity taken for granted by most, will be a cherished asset to these villagers. Last year, Model UN held a successful art auction and raised $3,000 by selling hemp bracelets with the colors of the Sudanese flag. This money was donated directly to Doctors Without Borders and their efforts in aiding the refugees of Darfur, Sudan.

By holding their second annual Humanitarian Art Auction and selling bracelets with authentic beads from Ghana, the members of Model UN hope to raise the $6,000 needed to bore a well hole and bring fresh clean water to Matse Nkwasi. This ambitious goal supported by Model UN presidents Sarah Wasser and Danny Metzger-Traber requires the help of the Lexington community. The art auction will be held on December 22 at 6:30 PM in the Science Lecture Hall. Students, faculty, parents, and friends are urged to attend as it will be a great night to raise funds and awareness for a deserving cause.

The auctioned items will include submissions from many sources. Last year's items included photography, paintings, prints, and handcrafted jewelry. Donations are still needed and anyone member of the community with something to submit can contact Annie Zeybekoglu in room 214 or by

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Guide to Combatting Dwindling Bank Account in Holiday Season

By Emily Moss

Every year, the holiday season arrives with loud relatives, mountains of sweets, overplayed carols, and, of course, the dreaded dwindling bank account. We all know the familiar routine: you feel like you've succeeded in spending less, but when your bank statement arrives, you're shocked and appalled by how much of your precious money is gone.

So this year, make an early New Year's resolution. Solemnly swear that you will NOT break the bank this holiday season. Spend reasonably and look for deals and cost-efficient gifts for the hordes of relatives and friends on your list.

For years experts have said that the best money-saving gifts are the homemade ones. However, not everyone has the "crafty" gene, so for those lacking inspiration or talent, here are a few quick and relatively painless projects that even the artistically challenged gift-giver can execute and a few money saving tips:

Treats: Fudge, candy, cookies, brownies, chocolate-covered pretzels, it really doesn't matter. If it's sweet and easily packaged, it will make a wonderful gift. Try websites like http://cookie.allrecipes.com and www.christmas-cookies.com for simple recipes.

Music: Most of you are probably tech-savvy enough to burn a CD. Follow a theme (i.e. Worst Holiday Songs Ever, Songs to be Sung Along with on the Way to Soccer Practice, Nostalgia: Songs from Seventh Grade) or just choose some favorites, burn it, label it, wrap it, give it, and enjoy it together.

Buy knick-knacks in bulk: Make a trip to Costco or to your local supermarket and buy the jumbo packs of holiday treats. Baked goods, candy canes, or whatever else you prefer will be less expensive when bought in large quantities. Ornaments, candle holders, scented soaps, and picture frames usually work pretty well. In the privacy of your own home, divide up your loot, add ribbons and bows, and distribute.

> You feel like you've succeeded in spending less, but when your bank statement arrives, you're shocked and appalled by how much of your precious money is gone.

Buy used: Used books (McIntyre's, Buck-A-Book, Amazon.com), used DVDs (Strawberry's, Newbury Comics), and used CDs let you give the gifts your friends desire without spending so much money. Once they've been repackaged, you can't really tell the difference anyway.

Finally, if your list is really getting out of control, organize a gift exchange. Get together a group of friends, co-workers, or team members, and put everyone's name in a hat. Set a reasonable price limit. Have everyone draw a name and get a gift for that person. Not only do you get to cut down your list of gift-receivers, you get the challenge of trying to puzzle out your gift-giver.

Catching Up with... *Irving Chung*

Most LHS students like licorice. Senior Irving Chung likes it more than most. His research regarding licorice extract and its potential use as a hormone-replacement therapy earned him an invitation to the New England regional finals of the Siemens Westinghouse competition, an extremely famous and prestigious science competition. He didn't win, but he did get to present his findings in front of a panel of MIT professors. He also earned $1000 for himself and $2000 for the LHS science department. He discussed science (and occasionally steak) with The Musket:

Q. Where did your interest in science come from?

A. I didn't have cable as a kid. On Sundays and other lazy days, I couldn't vegetate watching cartoons or MTV, and all I had was PBS...and Nova.

Q. What were some of the challenges you faced during your experiments?

A. It took an hour to get to the lab. I had to sacrifice much of the summer vacation.

Q. What was your favorite part of the awards ceremony?

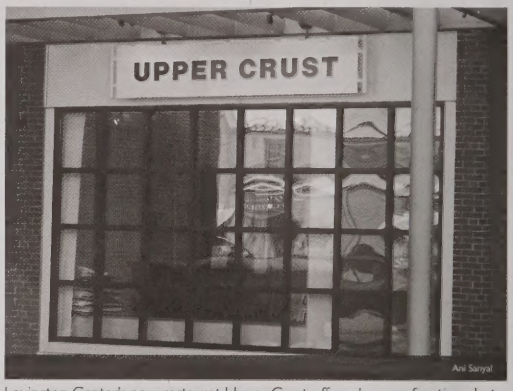
A. I could finally go home. Also, my mom (I had to have a parent even though I'm 18) gave me half her steak, so I got two steaks.

Q. Did you meet any interesting students?

A. They were mostly normal. I tried to talk about Batman with some of the guys but they didn't even know about Raz'Al Ghul's Lazarus pit thing. The winner of the individual portion invested in stock in his spare time. I guess he thought I wasn't worth talking too. Neither were the other students.

Q. What advice would you give to students who want to get involved in science?

A. Don't do it. But, if you are genuinely interested, join a science team or volunteer in a lab. It's easier to keep going if you've got people in your hair about it all the time.



Lexington Center's new restaurnt Upper Crust offers dozens of options, but is famous for its pizza.

Bite Size

Upper Crust

By Abha Gallewale

With a convenient location on Waltham Street across from Rosie's Bakery, it's hard not to have noticed the new pizzeria, Upper Crust. The place has moderate prices for the average gourmet pizzeria: an 18" pizza is about $13, a large salad ranges from $6 to $8, and calzones are about $8. Slices are a bit pricey at almost $3 a slice, although they are large enough to fill you up. Along with these choices, Upper Crust also serves seafood, pesto specialties, and lasagna. The chefs make the pizza using their own dough, so freshness is always guaranteed. Whole-wheat crusts can be made upon request.

The Lexington location just opened during Thanksgiving weekend, but the pizzeria has multiple locations including ones in Beacon Hill, Brookline, and Key West, Florida.

Upper Crust was named the Best of Boston 2005 by the Improper Bostonian, and "Gourmet

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EDITORIALS

Our Future's Biggest Enemy Will be Oil

By Students of Lexington United for Justice (SLUJ)

Think of a few things that Americans take for granted: freedom to drive where you want and when you want, reasonably priced airplane tickets, fresh fruit and vegetables throughout the entire year, and a warm home in the winter. As the fuel for cars, airplanes, food transport, and furnaces and the base ingredient of many mass-produced materials, oil enables Americans to enjoy comfortable lifestyles.

Perhaps oil is widely used because it is easier to use than other energy sources. It is easier to transport than natural gas, burns more cleanly and has higher energy density than coal, and is currently in high availability. While many people are preaching the goodness of renewable energy sources, no type of renewable energy competes with oil's efficiency and versatility. Renewable energy sources are all plagued by shortcomings: for example, no method exists to store energy while the sun does not shine and the wind does not blow. Most renewable energy has an end product of electricity, a dilemma of nuclear fission—electricity cannot substitute effectively for gasoline.

According to James Howard Kunstler, author of The Long Emergency, about a trillion barrels of oil remain in the Earth. That may seem like a lot. But consider that if every person on Earth used oil like an American, the remaining oil would vanish into the atmosphere within six years. At today's actual global rate, a few decades' worth of black gold remain at most. Most economists predict that the remaining oil will be so difficult to recover that only half will prove accessible.

> By the time today's high school students reach their thirties, they may be watching the world unravel around them.

The end of oil means political and environmental disaster. When only the dregs are left, global oil wars will erupt. The people of developed countries, accustomed to a high-energy standard of living, will burn whatever they can get their hands on. Coal pollution will dirty the air and cause epidemics of lung disease. Demand for wood will spark a frenzy of deforestation.

The strains of declining oil production have begun—the price shocks will come within the next decade or so. By the time today's high school students reach their thirties, they may be watching the world unravel around them. The generation once known as the "flower children" of American is creating several situations of catastrophe that their children will have to deal with. The United States has the resources to confront the current oil dilemma it has on its hands; the youth have the years and information to mobilize action. The bright students at Lexington High School should realize that taking a progressive stance on oil would enable them to re-write the history that we are otherwise destined to have.

What's Hot and What's Not

HOT

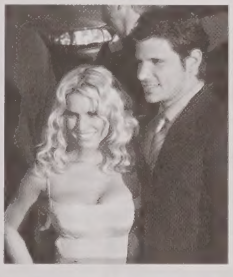
Holiday Coffee Drinks: Not only Starbucks, but all coffee shops far and wide seem to be featuring hot beverages such as Eggnog Lattes and Peppermint Hot Chocolates that are spiked with a little holiday cheer.

Rent: This Broadway musical-turned-movie about Bohemians in New York City who are struggling to pay their rent and suffering the consequences of the AIDS epidemic will leave you feeling inspired.

Acapulco's: It might be a little pricey, but it's about time that there was a Mexican restaurant in colonial Lexington.

Online Christmas Shopping: Unless you enjoy bad holiday music and the company of stressed middle-aged women, this is a great alternative to crowded malls.

NOT



Jessica and Nick: They broke up. Does anyone care?

Guantanamo Bay: The Bush administration seems to have missed the memo that torture is illegal. Apparently "The Bybee memo," which narrowly defines torture as murder, is more to their liking.

Early Decision Results Day: Whether you sedate yourself or wait by the mailbox all day, this stressful afternoon will make a lot of difference in your life. Post-decision you will be able to either kick back and relax or get started on the rest of those applications that you've been avoiding.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editors:

As an LHS parent, I enjoyed reading the article that Casey Makovich wrote on Facebook [Facebook Mania, Nov]. Please note, the students at LHS may wish to pay particular attention to the Facebook privacy policy (or lack thereof) regarding information provided to Facebook. Facebook may share disclosed information with third parties, including advertisers, businesses, governments, courts, lawyers and others. Specifically, any or all of these people may have access to ALL users of Facebook's personal information ... a scary thought ... just think any business or government or legal authority can acquire all the information that is written on Facebook by any user. Also, think if a college wished to pay the price by Facebook, they could also have the users personal information.

Therefore entries on Facebook, are in a sense public information which can be acquired at a price by virtually anyone ... unlike IM [Instant Messenger], the users identity in Facebook is not concealed and easily tracked. This may be worthy of a follow-up article.

Sincerely,
Marjorie Radlo-Zandi
LHS Parent

Students Suffer as Stress Mounts

By Rachel Kase

Many people equate high school with the frivolity of activities like proms, football games, and fighting with parents. Unfortunately, many people don't realize that accompanying most Lexington High School students as they enjoy such rites of passage is a heavier emotion: stress. There is good reason for students at Lexington and similarly rigorous high schools to be stressed out from the first time they walk in the door. Freshmen are nervous because they have to become acclimated to their huge new school. Sophomores are anxious because they are beginning to receive letters from colleges in the mail. Juniors are overwhelmed because they have to endure numerous SAT tests and their classes are harder than ever before. And the seniors are suffocated by perhaps the most anticipated task of their lives: applying to college. Sounds like fun, right?

The fierce competition among students and the towering expectations of them are not necessarily as admirable as they seem. The school administration feeds the students the food of stress for the entire time that they are at the school. As early as sophomore year students are allowed to beef up their course load with AP classes, an option that an increasing number of students are taking advantage of. It is no wonder students are burnt out by their senior year! While the senior English classes are currently unleveled, the department's noble attempt to rid the school of some unnecessary competition is not appreciated by everybody: administration has mandated that senior English classes become leveled next year. All the while, the increasingly competitive college application process consumes many seniors' lives. In the midst of all this pressure, it is hard not to wonder when all this will stop.

While others have similarly diagnosed Lexington High School students as "stressed out,"

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FEATURES

New Computer Animation Class Attracts Students

By Karan Mudgal

Every now and then our school gets some new classes added to the abundance that we already have. This year an exciting new class was added to the arts program: Computer Animation, taught by Art Teacher Sean Hagan.

The course kicked off in the second quarter with its first 20 students, and it seems to be very popular. Getting in is extremely difficult and priority is given to upper classmen. The new class is supported by two grants including a Lexington Education Foundation (LEF) grant and one from Friends of Lexington Music, Arts, and Drama Students Inc. (FOLMADS.)

Hagan was able to get $6950 in total to pay for 20 new digital drawing tablets in addition to various other materials. Hagan has worked with many animations studios, beginning at Tom Snyder's and moving up to Cartoon Network and PBS. Hagan is happy to bring this class to students and to create the next generation of computer animators. In the future, he would like to invest in better technical equipment, including a digital recorder. In terms of the class, he'd like to see the development of an advanced animation class, with more sophisticated animation being taught.

Art teacher Sean Hagan explores computer animation with a new class.

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

December Movies Break Out of Seasonal Slump

By Andrew Gerzon

After a relatively uneventful movie season this autumn, this month brings a slew of films as well as hope for a good movie season this winter.

The Chronicles of Narnia: Lion, The Witch, And the Wardrobe – Dec. 9

Adapted from the famous children's classic by C.S. Lewis, Narnia is the first time the book has been adapted to the big screen and it is being met with much anticipation. Directed by Andrew Adamson the filmmaker of Shrek (2001) and Shrek 2 (2004) Narnia looks like a possible departure from the fun, unthreatening nature of Shrek into a more appropriately dark area. Can't wait to see how they handle the less-than-subtle Christian overtones of the book.

King Kong - Dec 14

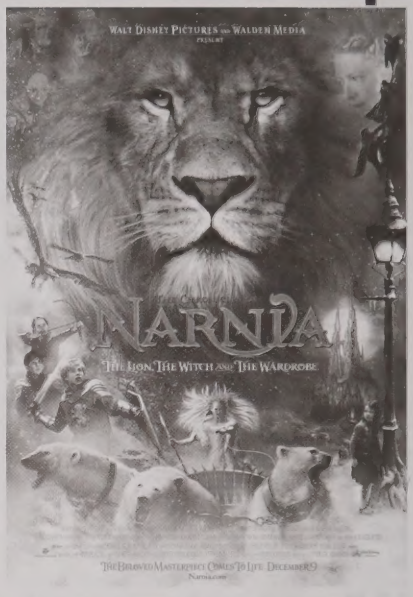
Peter Jackson's follow up film to The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King (2003) looks like an unquestionable financial success with predictions already being made on box office sales. Of course the real question is whether Jackson can follow up the multi-Academy Award winning LOTR trilogy with yet another critically successful film. It is a remake of the classic 1930s film about explorers who discover a giant gorilla on a secret island and bring him back to civilization. Looks like a sure thing.

Munich - Dec 23

Based on actual events which occurred during the 1972 Olympics in Munich, Steven Spielberg's new film tells the story of 11 Israeli athletes who were murdered by a Palestinian terrorist group. The Israeli government, in retaliation, recruits a group of Mossad agents to track down the perpetrators. Spielberg has chosen a more serious topic for his newest film after 2005's sci-fi adventure War of the Worlds. Of course, being a Spielberg film, it is already generating Oscar buzz.

The New World - Dec. 25

The New World has received little attention from the media and has also had a pretty minimal ad campaign, yet it looks like it could be a very good film. The film tells the story of John Smith and other explorers who arrive in America and battle with the Native Americans there. Although Hollywood has a history of make historically inaccurate films, and America has never really faced up to the conquest of the Americas there is hope that this film will do just that. Director Terence Malick directed the brutally realistic World War II film The Thin Red Line which depicted the battle between the Japanese and the Americans in the south Pacific. Hopefully The New World will also deliver the same feel of truth and realism.



Top Five: Reasons to Love the Holiday Season

By Emily Moss

1. Relatives – See the new babies, catch up on family news, revel in the warmth and comfort of the familiar.
2. Treats – The holidays are generally an excuse to eat as many goodies as you can, because you can always say, "Who cares! I'm on vacation!"
3. Gifts – There's something deliriously pleasurable about ripping wrapping paper; it's almost better than seeing what's on the inside.
4. Snow – If you haven't done it in a while, go have a snowball fight. Talk about exhilarating.
5. Vacation – There's nothing better than laying on the couch all day with nothing better to do than eat leftovers and watch Saved by the Bell reruns.

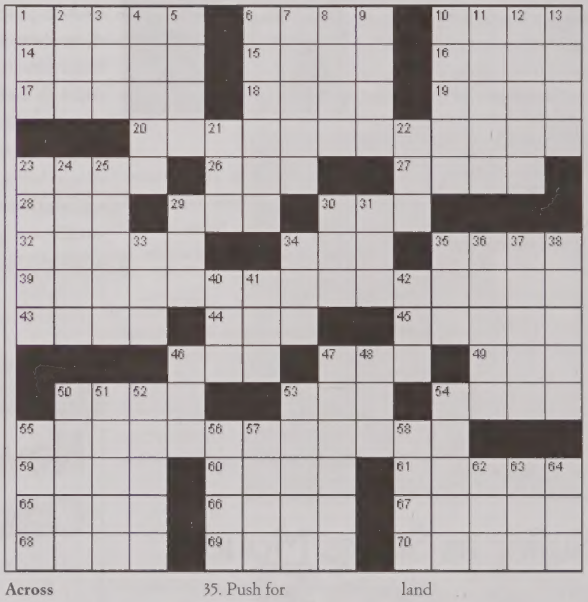
Top Five: Reasons to Hate the Holiday Season

By Emily Moss

1. Relatives – They're loud and invasive, and their presence probably means you're sleeping on the couch.
2. Treats – Following your December binging comes January's self-loathing.
3. Gifts – Unfortunately, the whole "gift thing" goes both ways. Try not to break the bank (Check out How to Combat the Dreaded Dwindling Bank Account on Page 2)
4. Snow – You know what really sucks? Being woken up at 8am by your mother poking you and handing you a shovel.
5. Vacation – Hmmm.....Nope, I can't really think of a downside.

Crossword Puzzle

By Garrett Bernstein and Chris Chaffee



Across

1. Walking aid
6. Take back merch.
10. Field yield
14. Greetings
15. A way out
16. Shoe securer
17. Pass within
18. Melted clock painter
19. Parts of a play
20. Kids program
23. Number manipulation
26. Entrances
27. Hall of Fame quarterback Starr
28. Blood types
29. Org. division
30. Marriage identifier
32. Chubby chico
34. Poet Edgar
35. Push for
39. Teen program
43. On the apex
44. Fodder
45. Relieved
46. Pecan or cashew
47. Disabled pres.
49. Poetic before
50. Active person
53. Archer action
54. Cold War rival
55. Adult program
59. Finless fish
60. Poet's Ireland
61. Take as one's own
65. Pear or pine
66. Evaded truth
67. Four-door automobile
68. Groups
69. Microscope part
70. River in Central England

Down

1. Female pronoun
2. Log base
3. Ctrl neighbor
4. Meat
5. Fairway warning
6. Biting insect
7. Semester closers
8. Mound
9. Elisha or James
10. Nutcracker girl
11. Track participant
12. Eight members
13. Bug
21. Little drink
22. Superstition
23. Molten rock
24. Nearly
25. Trunk
29. "What's up ___?"
30. Simpson tavern owner
31. Preach.
33. Chip action
34. Wood width unit
35. Cold War Rival
36. Ascends
37. Movers
38. Finisher
40. After Wed.
41. Consume
42. Comparative suffix
46. Gun org.
47. Demons
48. License granter, briefly
50. Tractor brand
51. Baby hooter
52. Curvy turns
53. Strange
54. Beneath
55. Rim assets
56. Inform
57. Huron-Ontario connector
58. Cardinal point
62. Tribute
63. Pot partner
64. Explosive

Offbeat Athlete • From page 5

an activity saved solely for the less talented athletes. "Ultimate requires just as much training and conditioning as other sports, it's just that so little is known about it. People associate the sport of Ultimate with the people who throw Frisbees around on the Green all day, with no regard for the world."

Since Ultimate is both a fall and a spring sport, players have to stay in shape year round to keep up with the competition. While the team does not make cuts, the most talented players are allotted the majority of the playing time, and the games are always very emotional and competitive. "If we could get even a couple of the soccer, football, baseball or lacrosse players to convert, we could make the jump to national recognition," said Lubershane hopefully. "Not that I'm trying to plug Ultimate or anything, but I sure wish I could get a letter in Frisbee." While Lubershane's dreams may be several years from fruition, there is no doubt that the Ultimate Frisbee phenomenon has only yet begun.

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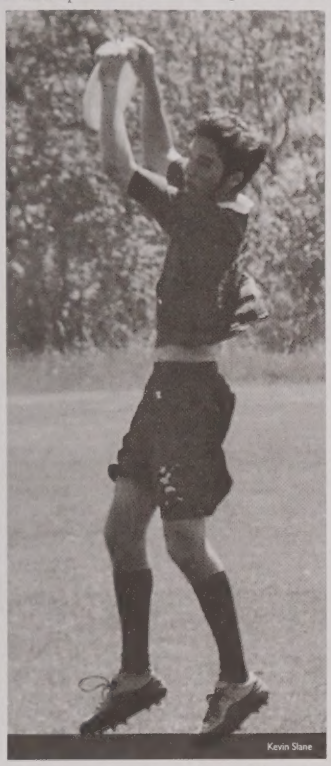
SPORTS - FEATURES

Offbeat Athlete of the Month: Peter Lubershane

By Kevin Slane

While Frisbee is not typically considered an offbeat sport, Peter Lubershane is definitely an offbeat person. Who else would show up to games in parachute pants, serenade his opponents, and know every single rule from the Ultimate Handbook off the top of his head? Still, all quirks aside, Lubershane is an excellent Ultimate player. A captain for the last two years, Lubershane has been in charge of leading one of the most successful, albeit underrated teams in the school. Year after year, the Hucking Fooligans rank among the top Ultimate teams in the state; last year, the Fooligans were invited to participate in the Eastern Youth Championships in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.


Kevin Slane

Peter Lubershane makes a flying catch during a match.

This year, Lubershane, along with head coach Larry David, has been in charge of coordinating all the tournaments and games for Lexington. Although the team lacks a devoted fan base in LHS, Lubershane retains a positive outlook. Lubershane wishes that more of the school knew about Ultimate. "We've been ranked as high as number 12 in the nation, and we have consistently beaten rivals from the region. Just last year, we beat athletic powerhouse Newton North six times."

Lubershane also points out that Ultimate has been able to defy the stereotype of being a slacker sport,

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Stress Mounts • From page 3

very little, if anything, has been done to curb stress levels. The senior class exemplifies the environment at the high school: conversation revolves around one topic (you can guess what it is) and probably half of the seniors would describe themselves as academically and emotionally malfunctioning. So who is guilty of provoking this unadulterated anxiety in the student body? The answer is a familiar one: we are all at fault. The administration at Lexington High School, the parents, the teachers, the students, and the greater national community are cultivating the stressful atmosphere in high schools.

Everybody in the Lexington community needs to reexamine the current atmosphere and reevaluate what is really important. School would be a much more fulfilling experience if students could take advantage of the great academic opportunities that Lexington High School has to offer on the premise of their own desire to learn, not their pressing need to get into the top schools. Besides, colleges are probably more likely to accept genuinely passionate students anyway. So as early decision applicants begin to hear from their schools, and while regular decision candidates scramble to write their last essays, everybody should attempt to put the whole ordeal into perspective. We all know that where you go to undergraduate school doesn't really affect the quality of the rest of your life. So try to make time to enjoy the holidays with your family and friends. It will do everybody some good.

Bite Size: Upper Crust Pizza • From page 2

Greatness" by Phantom Gourmet. Jack Welch even reviewed them in his new book, Winning. In addition, they were featured on 60 Minutes and Newsweek.

With a uniquely designed dining room and HDTV screen, The Upper Crust targets high school and college students. If you're on the go, you can even call ahead for takeout or delivery. The one thing that desperately needs to improve is the quality of customer service. Delivery is often slow, and the staff can be rude.

Upper Crust Restaurant
41 Waltham Street
Lexington, MA 02420
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Band Night Rocks, But is Marred by Controversy

By Emma Puka-Beals and Chrissy Kugel

There's no better way to blow off steam and have a good time than head-banging to the sounds of LHS's own bands. The most recent Band Night on December 2 was extraordinary, with music ranging from jazz to heavy metal.

Band Night was kicked off by some of LHS's most recently formed groups, including Dolphin Safe, Wrath of God, Tracy Strangelove, and Ignited Temperment. Tracy Strangelove gave a riveting and emotion-filled performance. Lucas Levy, the band's lead singer, thought that their song "Chaos Aorta" received the best reaction. He was pleased with their performance, but less pleased with his voice, which was left raspy from the screaming.

Among the most highly anticipated groups was Emergency Exit, a group that has performed at five Band Nights. This group was an energizer for the audience.

The two most unique sounds of the evening came from groups Du Rock and G-Rod and the Nastysm performing a combination of different creative jazz numbers. These songs were incredibly well-received by the audience.

Unfortunately, Band Night was marred by controversy as chaperones clashed with band members. As a result, Moonshine, one of LHS's most popular bands, will not be performing at any more Band Nights. Guitarist Andy Beyer explains that "the excessive level of control just creates a bad atmosphere" and that these restrictions make the events "not as enjoyable for fans." Nonetheless, the band is already in the process of planning concerts at other Lexington venues where the dress codes, among other things, will be more lenient.

In an interview, chaperone Beatriz DesLoges of the Foreign Language Department revealed her opinion about the music at Band Night. Although she thinks that the students are talented, she found that most of the songs consisted mainly of "screeching and howling" and "not music." Whether or not that belief is justified is a matter of opinion.

Nevertheless, Band Night was an overall success. It was a rush for not only the performers, but for the audience as well.

Mike Clarke

Moonshine band member Andy Beyer rocks out at LHS's popular

Model UN Auction • From page 2

emailing her at azeybekoglu@sch.ci.lexington.ma.us.

Donations will be accepted through Monday, December 19. Individuals can even donate an artistic service. For example, Zeybekoglu is going to donate her bookmaking skills to a family that wants a personal album for an event. All of the proceeds from the bracelet sales and art auction will go directly to constructing the well. There will also be a bake sale with profits supporting Model UN and its efforts.

In addition to its fundraising, Model UN attends conferences at different colleges in New England. Early in November, the group attended the conference at Brown University, and in February the group will represent Zimbabwe at a Yale conference. Through debating world issues and by representing their assigned country's interests, Model UN members gain world perspective that is often difficult to find in suburban Lexington.

This global perspective correlates directly to their desire to aid impoverished nations. As Zeybekoglu explained, the group was tries to find urgent humanitarian needs where they think they can make a difference.

This holiday season, everyone is urged to give their time, artwork, and support by attending this auction and giving to a village that desperately needs help.

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Editorial opinions in The Musket do not necessarily reflect the policies of Lexington High School or its administration. Correspondence to The Musket should be addressed to The Musket c/o Lexington High School, 251 Waltham St., Lexington, MA 02421 or by email to TheMusket@yahoo.com. Short, tasteful responses are welcome.

Girl's Track Aims for League Title

By Andrew Snyder

The snow has started to fall and the field house at Lexington High School is filled with people running in circles everyday after school. These successful runners, jumpers, and throwers are members of the LHS indoor track teams, perennial contenders for their League titles.

This season, the girls' team is led by senior captains and returning Middlesex League All-Stars Jess Batty, Libby Mislan, and Sharrika Finley-Moise. The senior veterans on the team are hoping to win the Middlesex League title that has persistently eluded them by the slimmest of margins throughout their high school careers. Lexington has finished 8-1 for three consecutive seasons, each year losing only to archrival Reading. Despite recent history, captain Jess Batty boldly predicted that "[this] is the year that we'll finally beat them." In addition to the captains, Katherine Foster, Erin Kelly, Lily Fesler, Marissa Fiore, and Naomi Campbell are expected to make notable contributions this upcoming season. With a particularly large and skilled team this year, the girls will be able to use their incredible depth to finally win a coveted League title.

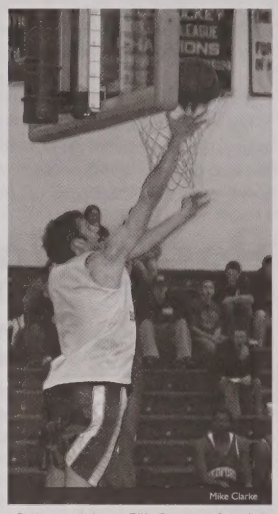
Members from the girls' indoor track team push themselves to make it just one more time around the track.

Boys' Basketball has Shot at Glory

By Stuart Easton

As the new season opens, the future looks bright for the Lexington boys' basketball team. After playing last year with only two seniors, the team is ready to reap the rewards this year, as its members are nearly all returning players from last year's roster.

The current squad is captained by seniors Jimmy O'Keefe and Armen Adamian, but will be filled with an unprecedented number of experienced players. Despite the fact that they are returning almost a full team, the Minutemen figure to face a tough Middlesex League that will feature strong teams such as Belmont, Woburn, and, of course, Watertown. Not fazed by their tough division, however, the Minutemen are putting all of their energy into preparing for their December 13th season opener against a scrappy Stoneham team. Co-captain Adamian offered some words on the team's preseason progress: "Right now we're just working hard and trying to get ready for the season. We know that we have a lot of competition this year and that teams will be trying to knock us off after our success last year, but we also know that we are pretty good as well. It should be a fun year for all basketball fans."



Senior captain Jimmy O'Keefe goes up for a shot during a preseason scrimmage.

Swim Team Will Make a Splash

By Stuart Grimes

Every year, the boys' swim team impresses many with its amazing performances. This year should be no different, as coach Donna Cerrato returns for the 2005 season, with the expectation of leading the team to another league title.

Captains Matt O'Brien, Danny Sheridan, Stephan Chiang and Harvey Zhou are among the Minutemen's many returning swimmers. O'Brien was voted All-Scholastic by the Boston Globe in 2005, after placing 2nd in the 100 butterfly in the sectional and state meets and capturing 1st place in the100 backstroke at both events. Other Middlesex League all-stars include Sheridan, Chiang, Jackson Tsai and Jack Justice.

The team faces a very tough schedule this year, opening with Middlesex League opponent Melrose and later competing against non-league powerhouses Xaverian, Central Catholic, Wellesley, and St. Johns Prep. However, with so many quality swimmers, Lexington should be able to handle the schedule just fine. Captain Dan Sheridan commented that "with so many returning swimmers, [he] expect[s] another very successful season."

Sports Predictions

After the startling accuracy of our unprinted predictions early this fall, we sports editors convened once more to guess how our winter sports teams will fare.

Boys' Basketball- The team is a perennial powerhouse that usually dominates the Middlesex League and advances deep into the State Tournament. This year, with the return of starter Jimmy O'Keefe and key contributors Ross Curley, Armen Adamian and Tom Heneberry, the team should do quite well. Prediction: 15-5.

Girls' Basketball - Coach Paul McManus has put together a good team for the upcoming season. With three returning starters, and five solid senior contributors on the team, the team will be led again by Cecily Chisholm's scoring and Kara Reardon's defense. Prediction: 13-7.

Boys' Hockey - After making the playoffs last year for the first time in two decades, it looks like this year's team has made impressive strides. Riding on the skill of All-League Goalie John Bienkowski and its defense, Lexington will ride all the way into the playoffs for the second straight year. Prediction: 12-8

Girls' Hockey- With many returning starters and a favorable schedule, the girls should survive the loss of last year's captains. Hopefully the team will show the Middlesex League why they are always a threat. Prediction: 9-7-3.

Boys' Swimming- The swim team has consistently finished at or near the top of the Middlesex League, and will most likely do so again. Anchored by a quartet of experienced captains, Danny Sheridan, Matt O'Brien, Steven Chiang, and Harvey Zhou, the team should dominate the regular season and put on a show at the League meet. Prediction: 11-2.

Indoor Track - Both teams appear extremely competitive in the Middlesex League this year. The boys will have to recover from the departure of Paul Morris, Archie Abrams and Jon Cunha, but they should have more than enough talent in their ranks to compensate. Leading the girls will be Sharika Finley-Moise, Libby Mislan and Jess Batty. Prediction: Both teams go 9-0, and Boys' Track wins state

Wrestling - More than likely, the wrestling squad faces another difficult season, as the team doesn't seem to have recovered from the loss of key seniors. Captains Mike Bitteralli and Karthik Sugumaran won't be able to salvage their team. Prediction: 5-10.

With New Coach, the Haydenettes Plan to Stay On Top of Their Game

By Arjun Gokhale

The most dominant sports team in Lexington isn't baseball or even boy's basketball, it's the girls' skating team, the Haydenettes. In the last couple of decades, they have established what one could call a skating dynasty. They have qualified for the international synchronized skating competition in each of the last 18 years, winning 15 national titles on the way. They have even earned the right to a free pass at the Eastern Sectional Championships and an annual bid to the National Championship.

But things weren't always so great for the Haydenettes. For the first decade of their existence, synchronized skating wasn't well established and they could only participate in local exhibition tournaments. Once the sport took off, so did the Haydenettes, who have become a fixture in the skating world. Their popularity has soared so much that they have performed live for the Today Show in New York each of the last four years.

Their reputation attracted current coach Saga Krantz, a member of the rival Rockettes just five years ago, to apply to lead the girls after longtime coach Lynn Benson stepped down this year. This sparked some drama in her native Finland where people were heavily against her coaching the Haydenettes. The founder of the Haydenettes, Benson decided to retire after a very successful career which was capped with a gold medal won at the international competition.

The girls had a competition in Bourne on the 9th and in February will travel to France to participate in the International Competition. The girls thrive off of the large crowds and the intense atmosphere they get to perform in, and it wouldn't be a big surprise if they place in the top three.

The keys to success for the Haydenettes are no different than those of any other sport. Hard work, including three to four strenuous practices a week and a dedicated commitment to the team have brought them to where they are today. Members of the team come from all over eastern New England. Their success is self sustaining because as they continue to win championships, they also attract the attention of top skaters who join.

Girls' Basketball Ready to Roll

By Julia Zheng

The squeaking sound of sneakers reverberates in the gym as a volley of girls soar past, passing the basketball to and fro in a blur of color. Coach Paul McManus watches intently, critiquing the girls on their performance. The only word to describe them is "team." As Coach McManus says, the team does not rely on any one person to win the game; instead, victory depends on each player doing her part.

The girls' basketball team is experienced, returning three starters from last year and bringing back seniors Jessie Kimball and Meggie Heffernan. Coach McManus is confident that the team, under the leadership of captains Cecily Chisholm, Kara Reardon, and Kate Kimball, should be very competitive in their league this year, as long as it stays injury-free. The team went 10-10 last year, and is hoping to improve on that record and make a run into the Middlesex League Tournament.